St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Edmond

Reaching Out • Reaching Up • Reaching Others

The First Sunday of Advent
8a.m. Service, November 29, 2026



Welcome to St. Mary's Episcopal Church, your presence today is a blessing. Worship is at the heart of Christian life. Through encountering God in worship we are formed and transformed as the people of God, equipped and sent into the world to minister in Christ's name.

Everything you need to participate is contained in this bulletin or projected on the screens.
Your responses are in bold.

Hearing assistance is available in the back of the church.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY BLESSING
Watch over thy children, O Lord, as *their* days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when *they* stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if *they* fall; and in *their* heart may thy peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Word of God

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT COMMANDMENTS

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

OPENING ANTHEM *Repeated Three Times*

Celebrant: Holy God,
Celebrant: Holy and Mighty,
Celebrant: Holy Immortal One,
People: **Have mercy upon us.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER DURING TRANSITION

Gracious God, during this time of transition we pray for our parish family. As we experience this time of uncertainty, we thank thee for thy presence and guidance. Help us to be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, and patient in our discernment. Assist us in living hopefully into the future. We pray for the priest thou art preparing to answer our call, that they will be our spiritual guide and companion as we strive to honor thee in all that we do. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9 A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your
2 presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name
known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome
deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past
no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who
wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were
angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6 We have all become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like
the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you
have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O LORD, you are
our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Do not be
exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Remain seated. Praying responsively by whole verse.*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the
cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 **Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, the son of man you have made so strong for**
yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 A Reading from Paul's First letter to the Church in Corinth.
3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always
for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have
been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been
strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37 *All stand.*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its
light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then
they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the
angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you
know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at
the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one
knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do
not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts
his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore,
keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at
midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And
what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON ON THE STEPS:
Following the message, the Children are invited to process out of the nave for story time.

THE SERMON **The Rev'd Nancy Cox**

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. *Amen.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Poulson our bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially the Winzenread, Woods, and Wright families, and to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor Larry, Kristen, Jonathan, Chris, and Amner, Ada, Anne, _____ and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially _____, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Blessed Virgin Mary and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

Celebrant and People: **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. Matthew 11:28

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 Timothy 1:15

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2:1-2

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**

People are invited to greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

Celebrant: All things come of thee O' Lord
People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

The Great Thanksgiving

SURSUM CORDA

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Because thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS

Celebrant and People: **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:**
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again. For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood. And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

A prayer for those worshipping virtually to be unified in Communion with Christ.

Leader: In union, O Lord, with thy faithful people at every altar of thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to thee praise and thanksgiving. I remember thy death, Lord Christ; I proclaim thy resurrection; I await thy coming in glory. And since I cannot receive thee today in the Sacrament of thy Body and Blood, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with thy grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from thee. May I live in thee, and thou in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR SENDING FORTH EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

On Sundays when Eucharistic Visitors are taking communion out, they are commissioned as follows:

Celebrant: In order that all may receive Holy Eucharist today N.N. & N.N. will be taking communion to N.N.

Celebrant and People: **In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. AMEN.**

Celebrant: Go in peace.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People: **Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Celebrant*:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People*:* **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant: The Rev's Nancy Cox
Organist: Olivia Burke, D. M. A.
Ushers: Pam Busby & Karol Setzer
1st Reading: Bud Setzer
2nd Reading: Olivia McCook
Chalice: Jackie Shields & Louis Rener
Children's Reader: Amber Austin
Vested Assistant: Clay Wright

The First Sunday of Advent—Year B

Welcome to St. Mary's Church. The season of Advent begins today. The name of the season means "coming," and it celebrates God's coming to us in the birth of Jesus and looks toward Christ's return at the end of history as Savior and Judge.

The first reading from Isaiah reflects the intensity of the prophet's hope for the Messiah. In a period of Israel's history when confidence in the people's own efforts to build God's Kingdom had collapsed, Isaiah expresses that hope in a passage that has been a part of the Advent liturgy since the earliest days of the Church: "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down..."

In the second reading we hear Paul's greeting in his first letter to the people living in Corinth. Recognizing the many
spiritual gifts of the Corinthian church (a source of their strength, but also a source of the controversy which caused him to write) he says that those spiritual gifts are given to prepare us to greet the return of Christ.

Today's reading from Mark is the parable of the door-keeper. It reminds
us that we are always to be on the watch for Jesus' return. Jesus' message to his followers is an assurance that he will return and that our lives should be lived in preparation for that return. This theme of watching for his return is always central on the first Sunday of Advent.
The liturgy is the way the Church lives in the time between Jesus' first coming and his second coming. In word and sacrament Jesus comes to us again and again, veiled, but present to eyes of faith. In the Eucharist and in ministry to others we are continually being prepared to greet him when he comes again in glory.

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.
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St. Mary's Episcopal Church
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Edmond, OK 73034

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Names will be placed in the Christmas Eve Church Bulletin.
Please make checks payable to St. Mary's Episcopal Church and note Christmas Flowers in the memo.

$20.00 - $100.00 per family is suggested and is greatly appreciated.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Edmond

3100 N. Broadway Edmond, OK 73034 • (405) 341-3855 • office@stmarysedmond.org